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1 subjecting said semipermeable membrane to said pressurized air within said air press, said
10 pressurized air thereby flushing said cleaning fluid through said semipermeable membrane.

2
7. (Amended) A method of cleaning a semipermeable membrane, said semipermeable membrane being configured for carrying a fiber web, said method comprising the steps of:

5 providing a cleaning fluid;

applying said cleaning fluid on said semipermeable membrane;

providing an air press, said air press being configured for carrying said semipermeable membrane therethrough, said air press having pressurized air therein;

conveying said semipermeable membrane through said air press; and

subjecting said semipermeable membrane to said pressurized air within said air press, said pressurized air thereby flushing said cleaning fluid through said semipermeable membrane;

10 wherein said air press includes a plurality of rolls, one of said rolls being a cap roll, said applying step including the substeps of:

applying said cleaning fluid on said cap roll; and

transferring said cleaning fluid from said cap roll onto said semipermeable membrane.

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13. (Amended) A method of cleaning a semipermeable membrane, said semipermeable membrane being configured for carrying a fiber web, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a cleaning fluid;

applying said cleaning fluid on said semipermeable membrane;

5 providing an air press, said air press being configured for carrying said semipermeable membrane therethrough, said air press having pressurized air therein;

conveying said semipermeable membrane through said air press; and
subjecting said semipermeable membrane to said pressurized air within said air press, said
pressurized air thereby flushing said cleaning fluid through said semipermeable membrane;

10 wherein said air press is a cleaning press used for cleaning said semipermeable membrane;
and

said cleaning press is further configured for at least one of impregnating and coating the
fiber web carried by said semipermeable membrane.

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14. (Amended) A method of cleaning a semipermeable membrane, said semipermeable
membrane being configured for carrying a fiber web, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a cleaning fluid;

applying said cleaning fluid on said semipermeable membrane;

5 providing an air press, said air press being configured for carrying said semipermeable
membrane therethrough, said air press having pressurized air therein;

conveying said semipermeable membrane through said air press; and

subjecting said semipermeable membrane to said pressurized air within said air press, said
pressurized air thereby flushing said cleaning fluid through said semipermeable membrane;

10 said air press is a cleaning press used for cleaning said semipermeable membrane; and
further comprising the steps of:

providing a second air press, said semipermeable membrane having a membrane direction
of travel, said second air press being located after said cleaning press in said membrane direction
of travel;

15 carrying said semipermeable membrane through said second air press; and

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dewatering said semipermeable membrane within said second air press.

20. (Amended) An apparatus for cleaning a semipermeable membrane, said semipermeable membrane being configured for carrying a fiber web, said apparatus comprising:

a source of a cleaning fluid;

an applicator configured for applying said cleaning fluid to said semipermeable

5 membrane; and

an air press configured for carrying said semipermeable membrane therethrough, said air press having pressurized air therein, said air press thereby being configured for flushing said cleaning fluid through said semipermeable membrane;

wherein said applicator is one of a blade coater, a spray device, and a transfer coater and
10 said air press includes a plurality of rolls, one of said rolls being a cap roll, said applicator being said transfer coater, said cap roll functioning as a transfer roll of said transfer coater.

22. (Amended) An apparatus for cleaning a semipermeable membrane, said semipermeable membrane being configured for carrying a fiber web, said apparatus comprising:

a source of a cleaning fluid;

an applicator configured for applying said cleaning fluid to said semipermeable

5 membrane; and

an air press configured for carrying said semipermeable membrane therethrough, said air press having pressurized air therein, said air press thereby being configured for flushing said cleaning fluid through said semipermeable membrane;